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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,765	01/25/2002	Susumu Takatsuka	100809-00164(SCEY 19.380)	9583
26304	7590	04/04/2006	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			RUTLEDGE, AMELIA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/057,765	TAKATSUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amelia Rutledge	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-13,15-25,28-37 and 39-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-13,15-25,28-37 and 39-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Continued Examination filed 02/02/2006; Amendment filed 01/03/2006.
2. Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 are independent claims.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/03/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota"), U.S. Patent No.**

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5,956,021 issued September 1999, in view of Scott, U.S. Patent No. 5,543,818, issued August 1996.

Regarding amended independent claim 1, claim 1 cites: *An information entry method comprising the steps of: displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is **displayed**;*

Kubota teaches a method of inputting information into a portable information processing device in which the keys may be divided into at least one group of related keys, displaying a representative key and the display may change the keys so that a row of other related keys are adjacent to the provisionally selected key (Col. 4, l. 14-22). While Kubota does not explicitly teach that each item of information contained in each group is displayed, Scott teaches a method for entering text to a computer system using an input device having a small number of keys (Abstract; Fig. 1), where character information is displayed in groups where all characters in the group are displayed (Col. 2, l. 1-10), and the user may select a character from the group of characters.

Claim 1 also cites: *making available a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and a information selection mode allowing selection of information contained in the group;*

Kubota teaches that in the initial screen of the display device, only representative keys are displayed, allowing the display of Japanese, English, and numeral keys on the same screen so that the operator does not have to switch keyboards and allowing selections from the displayed groups. Kubota teaches that a user may select a key from a group

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of related keys by dragging the pen outside the representative key (Col. 4, l. 14-22), allowing selection of information contained in the group.

Claim 1 also cites: *displaying a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups;*

Kubota teaches that the keys are divided into groups of related keys (Col. 3, l. 57-65).

Claim 1 also cites: *allowing the group selected in the group selection mode to transit to the information selection mode; displaying an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transit from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, Scott teaches allowing group selection mode to transit to information selection mode, allowing the user to select a character from the group and displaying the selected character with a distinctive color or brightness to be distinguished from the other characters (Col. 4, l. 4-45).

Claim 1 also cites: *setting the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defining an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information; wherein each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected

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key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Kubota teaches selection and entry of the character according to a predetermined instruction. While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is definable information, Scott teaches that a user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, l. 22-29).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, so that the user would have the benefit of easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22).

Claim 3 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Further, Kubota teaches an embodiment where a kana row becomes shaded and subordinate keys appear in a downward row, displaying the selected group in an enlarged manner compared with the other groups (Col. 17, l. 26-37, Fig. 19).

Claim 4 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein an information selected in the information selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.*

Kubota teaches that a provisionally selected key is expanded leftward and upward (Col. 3, l. 23-24).

Claim 5 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein the selection processing of a group, and the selection processing of an information from the selected group are proceeded according to a predetermined selection instruction.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Claim 6 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein the grouping according to the predetermined rule is a grouping by a certain number of information or a grouping by categories.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the

predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Claim 7 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of changing a state of information defined in the group from a pre-defined state to a predetermined state.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group and representative key, according to a predefined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing changes state according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Regarding dependent claims 8-10, Kubota teaches the ordered (i.e., predetermined) storage of characters where order of character codes is determined by their attributes, including voiced sound and p-sound katakana (Col. 7, l. 3-19, Col. 9, l. 1-7). Further, there is a text edit area for kana-kanji conversion. Kubota teaches the cycled selection mode in which a user can select the special characters (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 33). Kubota also teaches means of changing the key display on the screen in response to the user's key input selection (Claim 1), compare to Claim 9, *adding a predetermined associate information to the definable information.*

Claim 11 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 8, wherein the conversion processing into a predetermined state is a processing for changing the size of the definable information.*

Kubota teaches that display position and character sizes are determined by the values stored in the figure information record, and Kubota teaches that when the characters are cycled by elapsed time the user has the option of selecting a lowercase character (Col. 11, l. 39-Col. 12, l. 33).

Claim 12 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 11, wherein, for the case the information is given in a text, the processing of changing the size of the definable information is changing the text into the lowercase.*

While Kubota does not explicitly teach changing the text into lower case, Scott teaches that a user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, . 22-29).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, so that the user would have the benefit of easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22).

Independent claim 13 cites: *An information entry device comprising: a storage means for storing a plurality of information which is grouped to a plurality of groups according to a predetermined rule; and*

Kubota teaches a character code information storage unit and display storage units where information is grouped and ordered according to predetermined rules (Col. 6, l. 41-Col. 7, l. 50).

Claim 13 also cites: *a control means for controlling display of a group on a monitor screen, and for controlling, based on a display position on the monitor screen and a predetermined instruction entry, at least an operation in a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and an operation in an information selection mode allowing selection of an information contained in the group; wherein the control means displays each of a plurality of groups so that each information contained in each group is **displayed**; displays a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups; allows transition of the group selected in the group selection mode into the information selection mode; displays an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transition from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, Scott teaches a method for entering text to a computer system using an input device having a small number of keys (Abstract; Fig. 1), where character information is displayed in groups where all characters in the

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group are displayed (Col. 2, l. 1-10), and after selecting a group, the user may select a character from the group of characters (Col. 5, l. 10-28).

Claim 13 also cites: *sets the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defines an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information; and defines an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information;*

While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is set as definable information, Scott teaches that a user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, l. 22-29).

Claim 13 also cites: *wherein the control means displays each group so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing

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device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, so that the user would have the benefit of easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22).

Regarding claims 15-24, claims 15-24 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 3-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 25, claim 25 reflects the computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein an information entry program to be executed on a computer, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding claims 28-36, claims 28-36 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 4-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 37, claim 37 reflects the program execution device for executing an information entry program, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding claims 39-48, claims 39-48 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 3-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new grounds of rejection includes the Scott patent, which is being relied upon to teach the

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newly claimed limitation of independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 37: *a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is **displayed**.*

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amelia Rutledge whose telephone number is 571-272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AR


HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100